

As an Amateur Radio Licensee (KC9APM) I would like to support the Petition of the the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) which requested the Commission delete Element 1 and give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees.

A also agree and support NCVEC's request that the Commission take expedited action to allow volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 as soon as possible.

I agree with the Petitioner that the Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned away because of the CW requirement.

Petitiner states that there is "no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill. I agree.

When amateur radio first was licensed by the commission there was a rational reason to require knowledge of Morse Code (CW) as it was one of the primary methods of radio communications. It no longer holds such an important and dominant role.

Morse Code (CW) today is one of many modes of communications used on the amateur bands and also in general radio communications. The commission doesnot require a practical demonstration that applicants for amateur radio licenses demonstrate their ability to communicate using voice (Am, FM digital or other modes), nor does it require a demonstration of the ability to communicate using RTTY, packet, PSK and Slow Scan TV or other modes. Morse code in todays world is no greater in importance than these other modes. It should no longer enjoy the special status of requiring a practical demonstration prior to licensing.

This fact has now been acknowledged by the world body this summer at WARC. They now leave the decision of CW testing (or not) up to each countries licensing authority. So far it has been reported that a number of countries have already or plan to eliminate the Morse Code licensing requirement for amateur radio operators. There is no reasonable excuse for the commission not to do likewise.

Please eliminate the Morse Code requirement (Element 1) for all Classes of Amateur Radio License and please do so as fast as possible.